



A 1 2 3 4 5 6 M 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 B 17 18 19



# TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE ROAD FROM MISSOURI TO OREGON

COMMENCING AT THE MOUTH OF THE KANSAS IN THE MISSOURI RIVER  
AND ENDING AT THE MOUTH OF THE WALLAH-WALLAH IN THE COLUMBIA

## In VII Sections

### SECTION I

From the field notes and journal of Capt. J.C. Fremont,

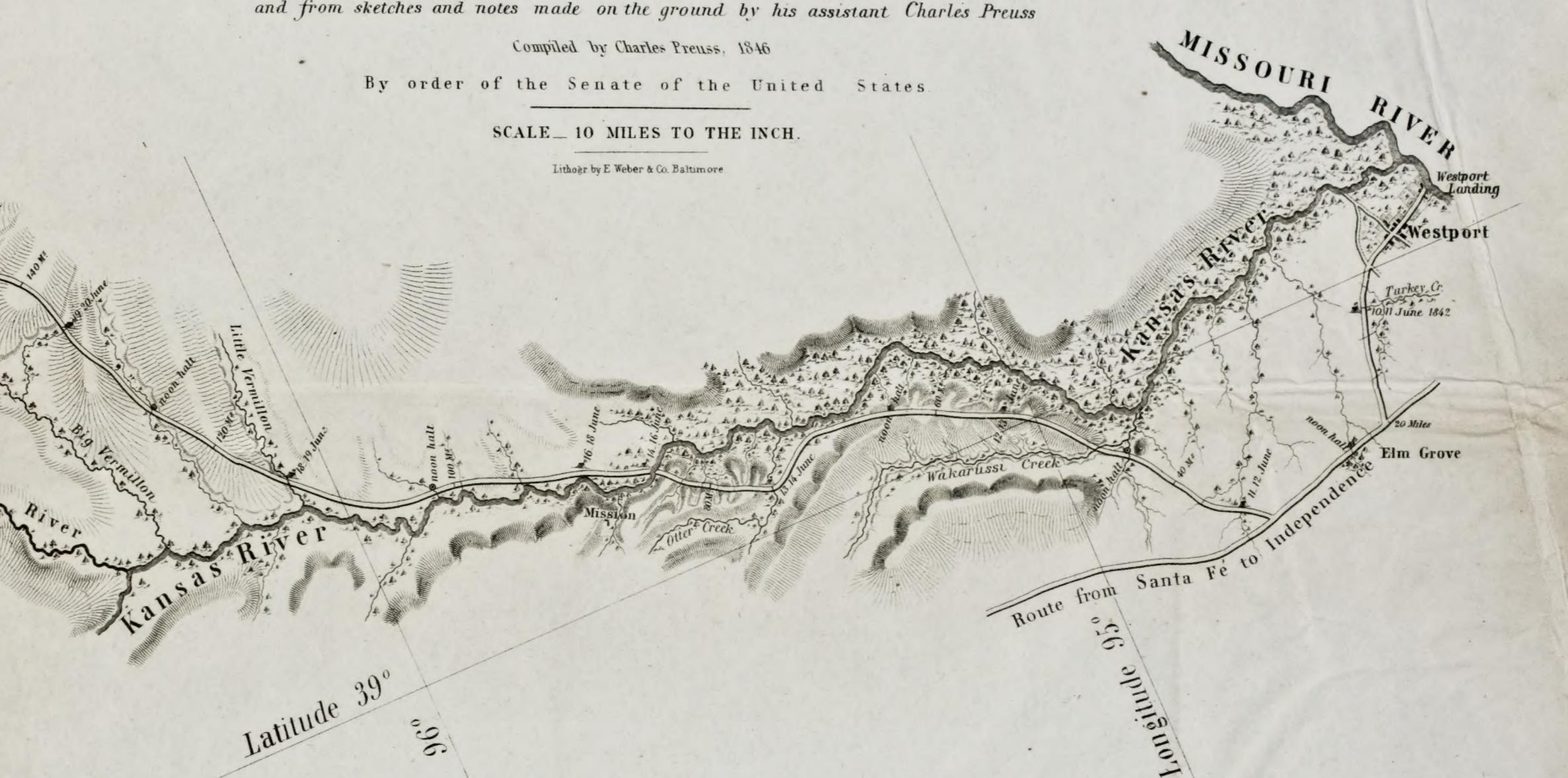
and from sketches and notes made on the ground by his assistant Charles Preuss

Compiled by Charles Preuss, 1846

By order of the Senate of the United States

SCALE - 10 MILES TO THE INCH.

Litho by E. Weber & Co. Baltimore



### REMARKS.

- The cyphers on the route indicate the distance in miles from Westport Landing
- This section abounds with grass, water and fuel, so that emigrants may encamp almost anywhere.
- Elk and Deer, the only game, are very scarce.

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## In VII Sections

## SECTION II

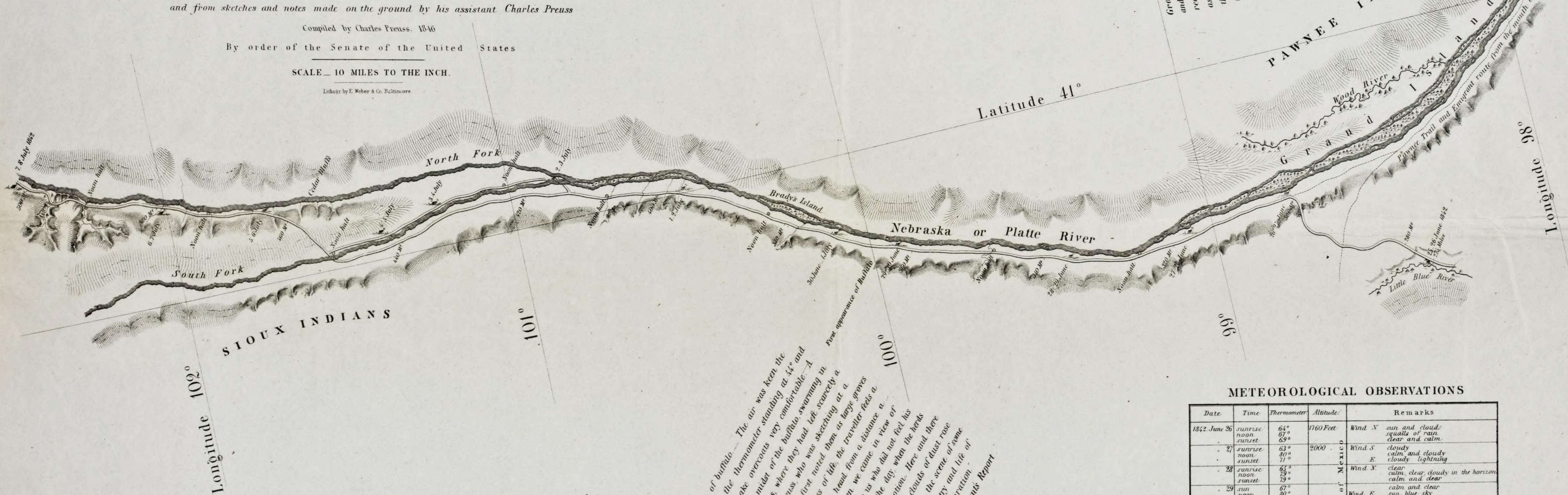
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### REMARKS

- REMARKS**

  1. The figures on the road indicate the distance in miles from Westport Landing.
  2. Game - Antelope and Buffalo, the latter in innumerable bands.
  3. Timber is extremely scarce, except on the islands. Some driftwood and buffalo excrement makes the fuel as that of the camels does in the deserts of Arabia.
  4. Good guard ought to be kept. Pawnees, if they do not kill, will at least take what they can from the travellers by force if they are strong enough, and by stealth if too weak to act openly.
  5. With this section the prairie ends and the barren sage (*artemisia*) country begins.

June 30<sup>a</sup>. First morning at sunrise, the air was sufficiently cold to make overcoats very comfortable. A few miles brought us into the midst of the plains, where they had swarming in immense numbers over the grass standing. Mr. Preuss, who had left scarcely a little distance in the rear, had at first noted them as large groves of timber. In the sight of such a mass of life, he was sketching at a strange emotion or grandeur. We had heard from a traveller who did not one among us who did not feel his heart beat quicker. It was not one who did not feel his heart beat quickly, and every where there was not one who did not feel his heart beat quickly. It was the early part of the day, when we came in view of a huge old bull was rolling in the air from various rolling in the prairie and our camp was full of their exhalation and life of Fremont's Report.

long—fertile and well wooded  
fifty two miles from Captain Fremont's  
Grand Island.—above the highest floods. Captain Fremont's  
island, the head of this island,  
and elevated above the mouth of  
the military post, the one from which  
recommend both emigrant roads,  
covering both the more commanding and a  
as covering the Kansas and also as  
the Great Laramie, and also below  
the mouth of the Kansas and the most  
the trail which leads Fort Laramie twenty miles to  
trails which begin towards the presence of a great  
up the plains villages which Pawnees are  
in check the island. These need the presence of wood and  
in check the island, and these with wood and  
end of the route, the Indians on the supply the river from sun  
indians would supply the river by the mile, deep in  
the island, would protect the river is near a mile, deep in  
the ground for cultivation, and quite shallow in  
the width of the summer, and quite shallow in  
the fall. The width in the summer, and quite shallow in  
the fall.

## METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Date	Time	Thermometer	Altitude		Remarks
1842. June 26	sunrise	64°	1760 Feet	Wind N.	sun and clouds
	noon	67°			squalls of rain
	sunset	69°			clear and calm
" 27	sunrise	63°	2000	Wind S.	cloudy
"	noon	80°		E.	calm and cloudy
"	sunset	71°			cloudy lightning
" 28	sunrise	65°		Wind N.	clear
	noon	79°			calm, clear, cloudy in the horizon
	sunset	79°			calm and dear
" 29	sunrise	67°		Wind E.	calm and clear
	noon	80°			sun, blue sky
	sunset	74°			wind increasing
" 30	sunrise	67°			Gale from NW
	noon	79°			strong wind from NW clear
	sunset	52°			cloudy
July 1	sunrise	44°			calm and clear
	noon	68°			calm and clear
	sunset	60°			light wind from N. foggy
" 2	sunrise	58°	2700	Wind N.W.	foggy, calm
	noon	77°		N.	sun, smoky
	sunset	63°			dirty horizon
" 3	sunrise	51°		Wind W.	clear
	noon	79°		S.	smoky
	sunset	64°		S.W.	foggy
" 4	sunrise	53°		Wind S.W.	foggy
	noon	76°		N.	smoky, sky covered
	sunset	69°		N.	smoky
" 5	sunrise	52°		Wind E.	has been raining
	noon	68°		S.E.	clear
	sunset	66°		S.E.	clear
" 6	sunrise	55°			High wind from S. clear
	noon	89°			high wind from S. clear
	sunset	81°			Gale from W. cloudy
" 7	sunrise	69°			calm and clear
	noon	95°			calm and clear
	sunset	82°	3350 Feet	Wind S.E.	clear and clouds

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## In VII Sections

### **SECTION III**

*From the field notes and journal of Capt. J. C. Frémont,*

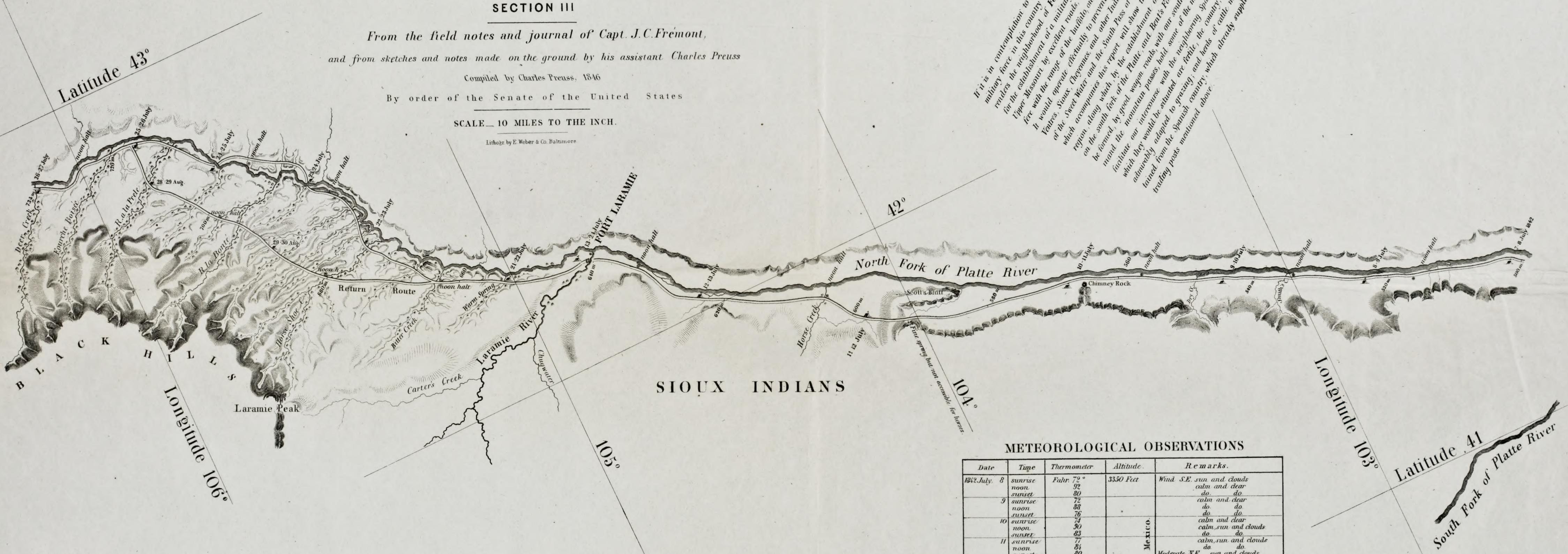
and from sketches and notes made on the ground by his assistant Charles Preuss

Compiled by Charles Preuss, 184

By order of the Senate of the United States

SCALE—10 MILES TO THE INCH

Lithogr. by E. Weber & Co. Baltimore.



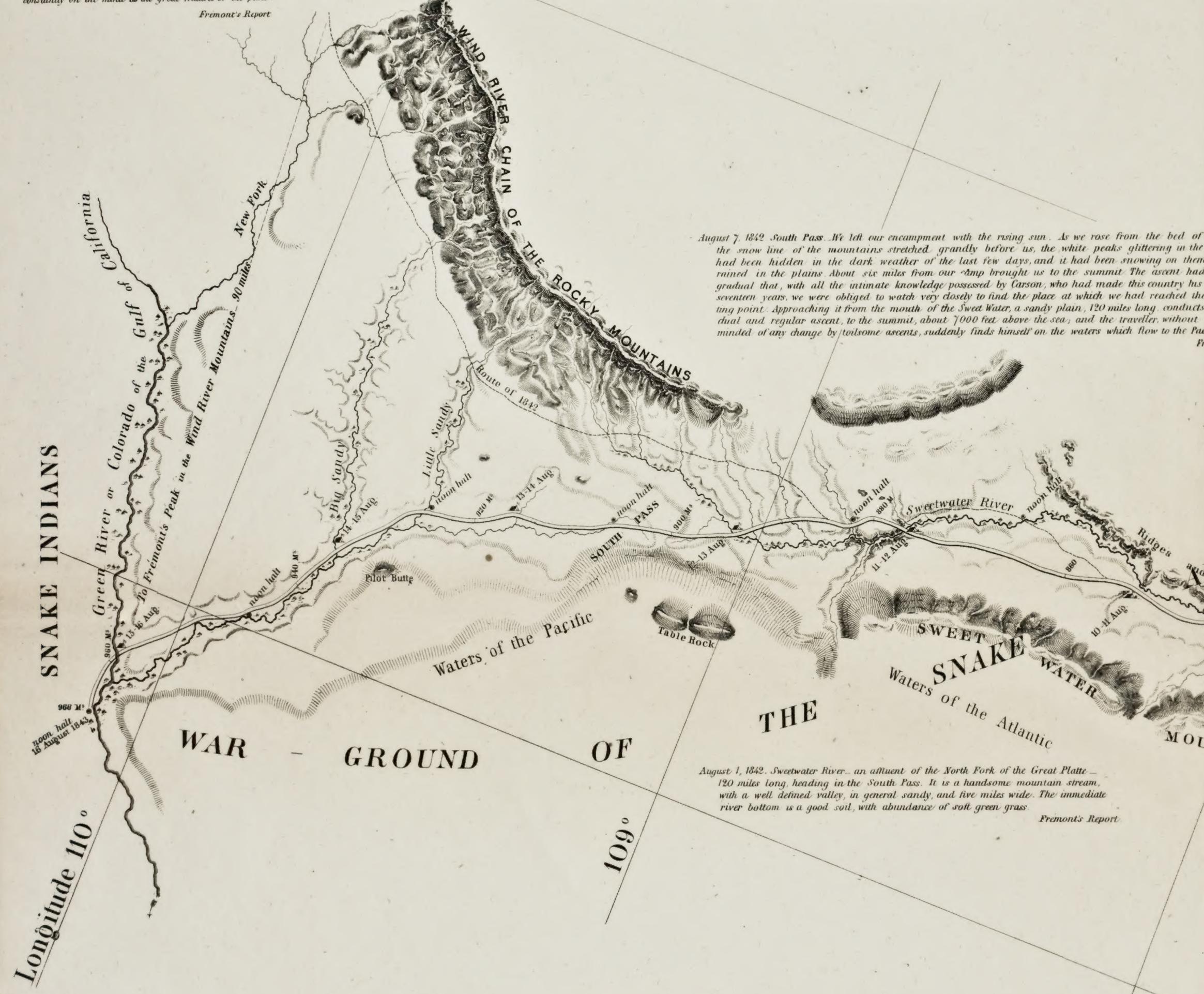
**REMARKS**

1. The figures on the road indicate the distance in miles from Westport Landing
  2. Game — East and West of this section more or less buffalo and antelopes, but 50 miles from Fort Laramie each way no game is to be found.
  3. Grass — is scanty and only occurs on the banks of the rivers and creeks.
  4. Fuel — also scanty. Driftwood, sage bushes, bois de vache and some cotton wood.
  5. Indians. Good guards ought to be kept all the way. Sioux Indians are not to be trusted.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS					
Date	Time	Thermometer	Altitude.	Remarks.	
1842 July. 8	sunrise	Fahr. 72°	3350 Feet	Wind S.E. sun and clouds	
	noon	92		calm and dear	
	sunset	80		do. do	
	sunrise	72		calm and dear	
	noon	88		do. do	
	sunset	76		do. do	
	sunrise	74		calm and clear	
	noon	90		calm, sun and clouds	
	sunset	83		do. do	
11	sunrise	77	the Gulf of Mexico	calm, sun and clouds	
	noon	84		do. do	
	sunset	80		Moderate N.E. sun and clouds	
	sunrise	76		Wind N.E. sun and clouds	
12	noon	86		do. do. do.	
	sunset	66		Light wind from N. dear.	
	sunrise	65		Wind N. clear	
13	noon	80		W. sun and clouds	
	sunset	67		W. do. do	
	sunrise	70		Wind W. few clouds	
14	noon	93	4470 Feet	Moderate from W. sun and clouds	
	sunset	80		do. S.E. light clouds & sun	
	sunrise	71		Fresh wind S.E. sun and clouds	
15	noon	90		do. do.	
	sunset	84		calm and dear	
	sunrise	74		Strong wind from W. cloudy	
16	noon	92		do. do.	
	sunset	85		Moderate from S. do.	
	sunrise	74	Elevation above the Gulf of Mexico	Wind N.W. cloudy	
17	noon	96		do. do.	
	sunset	82		Wind N.E. rain, thunder and lightning	
18	sunrise	64		calm, cloudy	
	noon	73		Wind from S. cloudy	
	sunset	73		do. E. do.	
19	sunrise	68		calm and clear	
	noon	81		Wind E. sun and clouds	
	sunset	73		do. S.E. cloudy	
20	sunrise	60	4640 Feet	Wind E. cloudy	
	noon	95		do. E. rain	
	sunset	83		calm and cloudy	
26					

Aug 10 (Western base of the Rocky Mountains south of the South Pass and near Fremont's Peak) The air at sunrise is clear and pure, and the morning extremely cold but beautiful. A lofty snow peak of the mountain is glittering in the first rays of the sun which have not yet reached us. The long mountain wall to the east, rising two thousand feet abruptly from the plain, behind which we see the peaks, is still dark and cuts clearly through the gloomy sky. The sun has risen from the river bed along the base of the mountain... (after sunrise) The sun has just shot above the wall and all the mountain peaks are gleaming like silver. The scenery becomes higher and more stupendous. The mountains are now appearing in the light of the rising sun, and the view here is truly magnificent... (approach to Fremont's Peak) We were now approaching the long range of the Wind River mountains, and the scene was indeed grand. There was a most beautiful lake, set like a gem in the mountains. The sheet of water lay tranquilly among the rocky ridges, and the mountains themselves, one descending the other, rose before us like a pile upon pile, glowing in the bright light of an early day. Immediately below them lay the lake between two ridges each covered with dark pine which went down from the main chain to the spot where we stood. Here the water was shallow, gliding over a bed of smooth sand and yellow sand, and the light foliage of aspen trees covered with white blossoms, accompanied by vetches, as on the dark slopes. Two of the men, Clement Landry and Bill Johnson, had been sent on the rocks a short distance below, and at this point I was attacked with headache and giddiness, accompanied by vomiting, as on the day before. Landry and Johnson however, I sent the latter over to Mr. Preuss, who was in a gap two or three hundred yards distant, desiring him to reach the peak if possible, and take an observation there. He found it difficult to proceed further in that direction, and took an observation where the barometer stood at 36° 293, attached thermometer 40° 68. (at noon) At half past ten we set out, having secured strength for the day by a hearty breakfast. We made about a mile and a half along the base wall which forms the central summits of the chain. There at last it rose by our side, a nearly perpendicular wall of great height, and our way out on a creviced line of broken jagged clefts. Here were three small lakes of a green color, each of perhaps a thousand yards in diameter and apparently very deep. Having descended a mile and a half, we crossed the base of the wall, and made our way up the side of the mountain, the path being covered with all unnecessary clothing and put the mules on a batch about a hundred feet above the lake, where there was a patch of good grass. We commenced the ascent of the wall, to the top of the mountain, about 12,000 feet above the sea level. Fremont's Peak was unbroken although Reached the summit a narrow crest. We mounted the barometer at the top, the thermometer 36° 293, and found it required in a crevice to support the national flag to wave in the breeze where never flag waved before. The barometer stood at 36° 293, the attached thermometer 40° 68, and the altitude 12,000 feet for the elevation above the gulf of Mexico. Fields of snow lay far below us, boundless mountains stretched before us. And still the most profound, and a terrible solitude fixed themselves constantly on the mind as the great features of the place.

Fremont's Report





# TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

OF THE

## ROAD FROM MISSOURI TO OREGON

COMMENCING AT THE MOUTH OF THE KANSAS IN THE MISSOURI RIVER

AND ENDING AT THE MOUTH OF THE WALLAH-WALLAH IN THE COLUMBIA

### In VII Sections

#### SECTION VI

*From the field notes and journal of Capt. J.C. Fremont,  
and from sketches and notes made on the ground by his assistant Charles Preuss*

Compiled by Charles Preuss, 1846

By order of the Senate of the United States.

SCALE—10 MILES TO THE INCH.

Litho by E. Weber & Co. Baltimore.

Sept. 24. American Falls. The river here enters between low mural banks, which consists of a fine vesicular trap rock, the intermediate portions being compact and crystalline. Gradually becoming higher in its downward course, these banks of scoriated volcanic rock form, with occasional interruptions, its characteristic feature along the whole line to the Dalles of the Lower Columbia, resembling a chasm which had been rent through the country, and which the river had afterwards taken for its bed. The immediate valley of the river is a high plain, covered with black rocks and artemisias. In the south is a bordering range of mountains which, although not very high, are broken and covered with snow; and at a great distance to the north is seen the high, snowy line of the Salmon river mountains in front of which stand prominently in the plain the three isolated rugged-looking little mountains commonly known as the Three Buttes. Between the river and the distant Salmon river range, the plain is represented by McPatriot's as so entirely broken up and rent into chasms as to be impracticable for a man, even on foot. In the sketch annexed, the point of view is low but it conveys very well some idea of the open character of the country, with the buttes rising out above the general line. By measurement, the river above is 870 feet wide, immediately contracted at the fall in the form of a lock, by jutting piles of scoriaceous basalt, over which the foaming river must pass, a grand appearance at the time of high water.

Fremont's Report.

Sept. 30. Subterranean River. Immediately opposite to us a subterranean river bursts out directly from the face of the escarpment, and falls in white foam to the river below. In the views annexed you will find, with a sketch of this remarkable fall, a representation of the mural precipices which enclose the main river and which form its characteristic feature along a great portion of its course. A melancholy and strange looking country—one of fracture and violence and fire.

Fremont's Report.

Oct. 1. Fishing Falls. Our encampment was about one mile below the Fishing Falls, a series of cataracts with very inclined planes which are probably so named because they form a barrier to the ascent of the salmon; and the great fisheries from which the inhabitants of this barren region almost entirely derive a subsistence commence at this place. These appeared to be unusually gay savages fond of loud laughter and, in their apparent good nature and merry character struck me as being entirely different from the Indians we had been accustomed to see. From several who visited our camp in the evening, we purchased, in exchange for goods, dried salmon. At this season they are not very fat, but we were easily pleased. The Indians made us comprehend, that when the salmon came up the river in the spring, they are so abundant that they merely throw in their spears at random, certain of bringing out a fish.

Fremont's Report.

Oct. 11. Three Buttes. After travelling about three miles over an extremely rocky road, the volcanic fragments began to disappear, and, entering among the hills at the point of the mountain, we found ourselves suddenly in a granite country. Here the character of the vegetation was very much changed; the artemisia disappeared almost entirely, showing only at intervals towards the close of the day and was replaced by Purshia tridentata, with flowering shrubs and small fields of *datura divaricata*, which gave bloom and gaiety to the hills. These were every where covered with a fresh and green short grass like that of the early spring. This is the fall or second growth, the dried grass having been burnt off by the Indians; and wherever the fire has passed, the bright green color is universal. The soil among the hills is altogether different from that of the river plain, being in many places black, in others sandy and gravelly, but of a firm and good character appearing to result from the decomposition of the granite rocks, which is proceeding rapidly.

Fremont's Report.

#### METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Date	Time	Thermometer	Altitude	Remarks
1843 Sept. 22	sunrise	41° Fahr.	4779 Feet	Wind S. begins to rain
	sunset	42°		do. sky partly clear, partly rainy clouds
		32°		calm, misty, foggy thick.
		45°		nearly calm, clear over head.
	sunrise	35°		calm, overcast
	sunset	55°		breeze from S. clear
	sunrise	46°		gale from S. clear
	sunset	55°		almost overcast
	sunrise	40°		Wind SW. rain last night
	sunset	44°		do. do. sky clear and clear
	sunrise	40°	4232 Feet	slight breeze N. S. rainy clouds
	sunset	45°		gale N. SW. thunder in S. clear and clouds
	sunrise	40°		slight breeze N. S. rainy clouds
	sunset	45°		cold wind fr. S.E.
	sunrise	38°		wind SW.
	sunset	50°		wind N. S.E. light clouds
	sunrise	28°		wind equally N. W. clear
	sunset	65°		wind W. clear
	sunrise	55°	3173 Feet	calm and clear
	sunset	74°		calm and clear
	2 sunrise	48°		do. do.
	sunset	60°		air from S. E. clear and light clouds
	3 sunrise	42°		do. do. do.
	sunset	60°		calm and clear
	4 sunrise	47°	3226 Feet	gale fr. N.W. cloudy
	sunset	57°		calm and clear
	5 sunrise	32°		wind N. W. overcast
	sunset	47°		do. do. do. rainy appearance
	6 sunrise	46°		do. do. do.
	sunset	51°		do. do. do.
	7 sunrise	45°		do. do. do.
	sunset	57°		do. do. do.
	8 sunrise	38°		calm and clear
	sunset	62°		do. cloudy horizon
	9 sunrise	36°		calm and clear
	sunset	63°		do. scattered clouds
	10 sunrise	43°		calm and clear
	sunset	62°	1998 Feet	do. do.

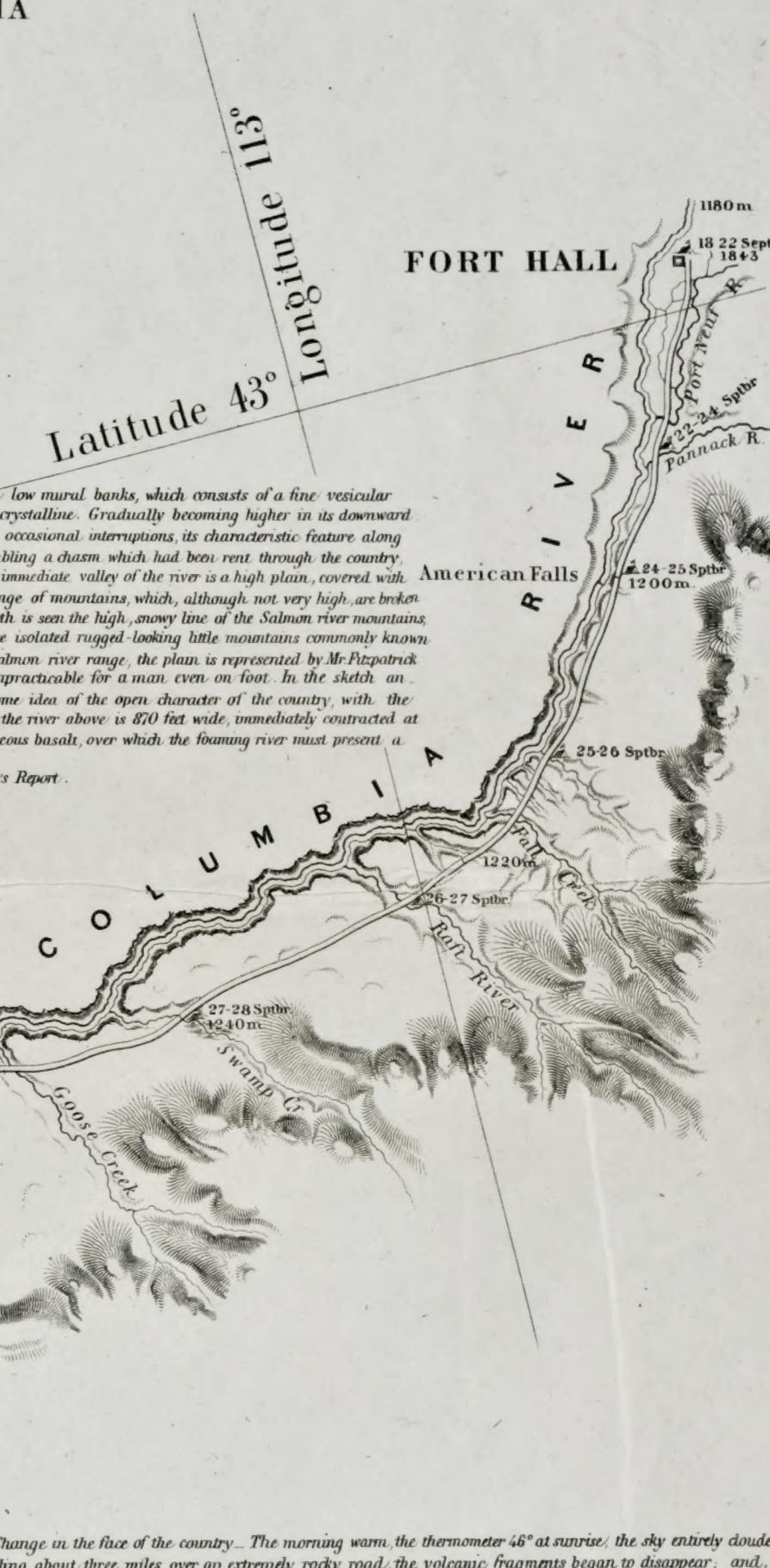
October 8. Fort Boisé. This is a simple dwelling house on the right bank of Snake River; about a mile below the mouth of Rivière Boisé; and on our arrival we were received with an agreeable hospitality by Mr. Payette, an officer of the Hudson Bay Company, in charge of the fort; all of whose garrison consisted in a Canadian engagé.

Fremont's Report.



October 1. Fishing Falls. Our encampment was about one mile below the Fishing Falls, a series of cataracts with very inclined planes which are probably so named because they form a barrier to the ascent of the salmon; and the great fisheries from which the inhabitants of this barren region almost entirely derive a subsistence commence at this place. These appeared to be unusually gay savages fond of loud laughter and, in their apparent good nature and merry character struck me as being entirely different from the Indians we had been accustomed to see. From several who visited our camp in the evening, we purchased, in exchange for goods, dried salmon. At this season they are not very fat, but we were easily pleased. The Indians made us comprehend, that when the salmon come up the river in the spring, they are so abundant that they merely throw in their spears at random, certain of bringing out a fish.

Fremont's Report.



October 6. Change in the face of the country. The morning warm the thermometer 46° at sunrise, the sky entirely clouded. After travelling about three miles over an extremely rocky road, the volcanic fragments began to disappear, and, entering among the hills at the point of the mountain, we found ourselves suddenly in a granite country. Here the character of the vegetation was very much changed; the artemisia disappeared almost entirely, showing only at intervals towards the close of the day and was replaced by Purshia tridentata, with flowering shrubs and small fields of *datura divaricata*, which gave bloom and gaiety to the hills. These were every where covered with a fresh and green short grass like that of the early spring. This is the fall or second growth, the dried grass having been burnt off by the Indians; and wherever the fire has passed, the bright green color is universal. The soil among the hills is altogether different from that of the river plain, being in many places black, in others sandy and gravelly, but of a firm and good character appearing to result from the decomposition of the granite rocks, which is proceeding rapidly.

Fremont's Report.

- The figures on the road indicate the distance in miles from Westport Landing.
- This is the most trying section for the traveller on the whole route. Water, though good and plenty, is difficult to reach, as the river is hemmed in by high and vertical rocks and many of the by-streams are without water in the dry season. Grass is only to be found at the marked camping places, and barely sufficient to keep strong animals from starvation. Game there is none. The road is very rough by volcanic rocks, detrimental to wagons and carts. In sage bushes consists the only Fuel. Lucky that by all these hardships the traveller is not harassed by the Indians, who are peaceable & harmless.
- West of the Fishing Falls, salmon, fresh and dried, can be obtained from the Indians.

Road from Illinois to Oregon

# POGRAPHICAL MAP

## THE

# AD FROM MISSOURI TO OREGON

## SCHUYLER COUNTY, KANSAS

D ENDING AT THE MOUTH OF THE WALLAH-WALLAH IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER.

## **Ch VII Sections**

## SECTION. VII

*the field notes and journal of Capt. J.C. Fremont.*

*sketches and notes made on the ground by his assistant Charles Preuss*

Compiled by Charles Preuss, 1846

der of the Senate of the United States.

SCALE—10 MILES TO THE INCH.



Date	Time	Thermometer	Altitude	Remarks.
1863 Octbr. II	sunrise	33° Fahr	1998 feet	air from E. clear
	sunset	64°		clear and calm
	sunrise	23°		do do
	sunset	62°		do do
	sunrise	29°		air from W. clear
	sunset	59°		calm, clear and light clouds
	sunrise	46°		clear and calm
	sunset	50°		do do
	sunrise	40°		few light clouds do
	sunset	61°		do do do
15	sunrise	16°	3100 feet	calm and clear
	sunset	60°		Wind E. clear and clouds
	sunrise	25°		calm do do
	sunset	62°		Wind S.E. cloudy
	sunrise	48°		overcast rain calm
	sunset	47°		air from N. cloudy
	sunrise	35°		misty calm
	sunset	46°		do do
	sunrise	37°		clear and calm, clouds in S.E.
	sunset	36°		clear and calm
21	sunrise	30°	4989 feet	do do

## METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

REM

- REMARKS.**

  1. The figures on the road indicate the distance in miles from Westport Landing.
  2. Water Abundant
  3. Grass Scarce in the bottoms (Grand Road excepted) but fine bunch grass on the hill-sides.
  4. Fuel Sufficient in the eastern part, abundant in the west.
  5. Game None